

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to better conform their language to U.S. practices. Claims 1, 2, 4-33, 40, 41 and 45-49 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 34-39, and 42-44 have been canceled. Claims 45-49 have been added.

Conclusion

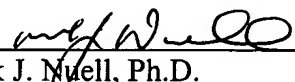
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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